

My thanks to Chris, Janet and the committee for the invitation to judge at the show, The Lancs always holds a special meaning for me, even as a Yorkshireman, as it was my first ever show as a judge. A big thank you to Mike who stood in as my steward at the last minute, He handled the cats with patience and great care. I did inherit some of Mrs Denny's classes and I hope that those exhibitors were not incommoded by this.

RUSSIAN BLUE ADULT, MALE

Considered for BoB

Stark's GR CH DUSHENKA ORPHIEL, (RUS a). M, 7.6.14.

This Russian Blue boy has very good overall Russian type. However he seems to have lost quite a lot of weight and is sadly lacking in muscle tone. Good length to the body with matching long legs and small oval feet. Tail in proportion to the body. Head has very good Russian conformation although the nose does have a slight dome to it. Large ears, well set. Eyes of good shape and set, two shades of green in colour. Fair depth of chin and an even bite. Coat short and soft, with quite good density. Handled well out of the pen. Hope to see him again when he is back to competition weight.

RUSSIAN BLUE ADULT, FEMALE

BoB Johnson's CH KORESHKA KARINA RAINA, (RUS a). F, 7.10.14.

An attractive Russian Blue girl, with very good overall Russian conformation. Long body with a solid muscular feel, matching long legs and small oval paws, Tail in proportion to the body for length gently tapering from a broad base. Head has a short wedge, good breadth to the muzzle with well developed whisker pads. Clear "Angle" but what detracts a little is the slope to the nose, which shows convex then concave curves, a firm chin and level bite. Eyes almond in shape a clear green in colour. Large ears, held vertically. Coat soft and fine with the best density and softness in the class, mid blue with a silvery sheen, the. A very demanding girl who just wanted to be fussed.

1st & CC Oakley's TABUSHKABLUE KREMLINKATZ, (RUS a) F. 27.4. 15.

At under eleven months old this Russian Blue girls shows good maturity for her age Body long and firm with proportionate legs and small oval paws. Tail in harmony with the body for length and has a gentle taper. Balanced head with a short wedge. Large ears held vertical and well set high on the head. Expressive, almond shaped eyes, set at an angle, a bright shade of green. Profile shows an evident "Angle" gentle curve to the nose, whisker pads show good development for her age, a firm chin and a level bite. Coat short if a little resilient, mainly down the spine line but showing quite good density. Blue to the roots with an overall silver sheen. Rather hissy both in and out of the pen but did handle well.

2nd Mather's DUSHENKA NORMA JEAN, (RUS a). F, 11.3.14.

Surprisingly although over a year older than the winner, this girl still just looks like a big kitten. Rather smaller than I would expect for her age. However the body is balanced and is of good weight for her size, legs in proportion with small oval paws. Tail balances the body for length a little thin at the base. Large vertically held ears well set. Eyes large but round in shape and in this hall lighting, hazel in colour. "Angle" developing, gentle curve to the nose firm chin with a level bite, whisker pads need more strength adding to the big kitten look. Coat kittenish and open but a good mid blue and blue to the roots. Happy to come out and handled well.

Also considered for BoB

Phillips's GR CH MELKELTER FLORENCITONA, (RUS a). F, 7.7.14.

A very attractive Russian Blue girl. Long, firm body with matching long legs and small oval feet. Tail a little short for balance but of good shape. The head shows a short wedge, large ears held vertical and set well. Expressive almond shaped eyes, a deep green in colour. Profile shows a clear "Angle", a distinct dip in profile and a slight rise to the nose. Muzzle broad and has good whisker pads. Firm chin and a level bite. Today however although her coat shows quite good density it is resilient in texture. Handled well out of the pen.

Phillips's CH MELKELTER MARA MINERVA, (RUS a). F, 23.7.11.

Good overall Russian conformation, with firm muscle tone, matching, proportionate legs and paws. Tail of good shape if a little shorter than I would like. Head has a short wedge with quite well developed whisker pads. Firm chin and a level bite, fair profile with a fair "Angle" although a very shallow curve to the nose. Eyes round, not almond shaped, a clear pale green in colour. Ears of good shape but set a fraction wide. Coat short and fine with density but like many of the Russians today the coat is resilient rather than soft. A little reticent but handled well.

Oakley's IMP GR CH KREMLINKATZ KATYA KALIKOVA, (RUS a). F, 26.6.13.

A Mature Russian Blue girl. Body long and firm with matching legs and paws, balanced tapering tail. Head seemed a little long for the width but a short wedge, well developed whisker pads, a firm chin and a level bite. Large ears, of good shape and set. Almond shaped eyes, shades of green. Coat soft and fine but lacking any real density mid blue with an overall silvery sheen. Best described today as resigned but handled well.

USUAL ABYSSINIAN ADULT

BoB Lockwood's CH SYRINX MOON RIVER, (ABY n). F, 3.2.14.

Nicely proportioned Usual Abyssinian girl. Medium sized body of good length with a firm feel. Matching legs with small oval feet. Head has a medium wedge with gently rounded curves. Large, well set ears. Bright hazel-green eyes, rounded almond in shape and well set. Pleasingly a strong nose break, a firm chin and a level bite. A little white on the lips and chin cream on the throat. Clear facial markings, just the hint of a well broken faint necklet and a few vestigial leg bars. Coat short and fine with a resilient texture. Well ticked in black on a warm apricot groundcoat. Black spine line and solid black tail tip, black on the hocks. Rather a handful who knows her own mind when she wanted to go back to the pen.

A.V. SILVER BENGAL KITTEN (ASSESSMENT)

1st Merit & BoB McGowan's TOBYSDEN GLACIA, (BEN ns 24 33). F, 7.10.15.

Still very much a baby, this Blue-eyed Snow Silver Spotted Bengal girl shows good overall conformation. Strong, medium-long, muscular body of good size for her age, matching legs with large rounded paws. Tail in harmony with the body for length, quite thick and even with a rounded tip. Head has a broad wedge, pleasing profile with a gentle curve to the nose, a firm chin and a level bite, a broad muzzle and strong whisker pads. Medium ears of good shape and set. Her eyes are still "Baby round" but already have a fair depth of blue to the colour. Coat is still kittenish in length and texture. Well covered in large rosettes with clear facial markings and small spots on the legs and underparts, solid black tail tip. It will be interesting to see how the silver develops with this colour of Bengal, on this girl currently it is a rather pale grey. I shall watch her progress with interest. Very nervous and quite a handful, it took some time to assess her bite.

RUSSIAN BLUE NEUTER, MALE

1st & PC Cooper's TABUSHKABLUE ROMAN, (RUS a). MN, 27.4.15.

Young Male Russian Blue neuter with very good conformation for the breed. Good overall size and weight with a long firm body with matching long legs and small oval paws. Tail in proportion to the

body, tapering gently from a broad base. Head has a short wedge, "Angle" well developed for his age, gentle curve to the nose, a firm chin with a level bite and well grown whisker pads. Eyes are a rather rounded almond in shape although they are a clear green in colour. Large ears set high and held vertical. Mid blue with a developing silver sheen. Like many of the Russians today the coat needs density and is resilient rather than soft in texture. An even tempered boy who handled very well out of the pen.

Considered for BoB

Stark's CH & GR PR DUSHENKA XANDER, (RUS a). MN, 5.1.08.

Mature Russian Blue male neuter. Long, firm body with proportionate long legs and paws, balanced tapering tail. Head has a short broad wedge, clear angle, strong whisker pads, and a firm chin with a level bite. Quite large ears, well set. Large, almond shaped eyes, clear green in colour. Coat short and fine, with density, but resilient in texture. A well behaved and friendly boy.

RUSSIAN BLUE NEUTER, FEMALE

BoB Hall's GR PR MELKELTER KALILAH MIST, (RUS a). FN, 26.5.13.

Well grown Russian Blue girl. Body with good overall Russian conformation. Long and muscular with matching legs and tail. Head shows a slight curve from brow to nose, clear "Angle", short wedge and strong whisker pads. Strong chin with a level bite. Mid blue with an overall silver sheen. Coat short and fine with really good density and a soft texture. Handled well out of the pen.

1st & PC Cooper's TABUSHKABLU TASHA, (RUS a). FN, 27.4.15.

Litter sister to the boy above this Russian girl is similar in conformation to her brother and has a similar expression. Medium size with an elegant muscular body, proportionate legs and feet, tail balances the body for length and is of good shape. Head has a short wedge, a well developed "Angle", gentle curve to the nose, a firm chin and a level bite and distinct whisker pads. Eyes again a little rounded for perfection, a clear green in colour. Large ears well set. A mid blue in colour with a silvery sheen developing overall. Coat is short and fine with good density for her age but again the coat is resilient rather than soft. Very techy today but this was probably due to the cat behind her spraying into her pen, despite this she did handle well out of the pen.

USUAL ABYSSINIAN NEUTER

1st PC & BoB Thomson's SALADIN SAMURAI, (ABY n). MN, 20.7.12.

A really pleasing Usual Abyssinian male neuter. Very good overall conformation for the breed. Good size body, medium-large with a firm feel. Matching legs with small oval paws. Tail in proportion to the body, tapering from a broad base. Head is a really good old fashioned British Aby one, with a balanced moderate wedge. Large well set ears. Bright hazel eyes, rounded almond in shape with the correct oriental set. Profile shows a clear nose break, a gently rounded muzzle, firm chin and a level bite. Very little white restricted to the chin only. Distinct facial markings, a faint well broken necklet and the merest hint of a few leg bars. Black spine line, pleasing amount of black on the hocks and a solid black tail tip. Well ticked with black on a rich apricot basecoat. A very friendly boy who was a pleasure to handle. I not surprised when I found out his parents in the catalogue, which probably explained his stylish British Aby looks, both being the late Caroline Macaulay's Annera breeding.

SPHYNX NEUTER, MALE

Considered for BoB

Brynes's GR PR ONATUREL APPENNINE STAR, (SPH n 03). MN, 1.5.13.

A nicely balanced Black and White Sphynx male neuter. Head is a modified wedge with strong cheekbones and broad muzzle with prominent whisker pads. Profile shows a slight nose break, fair depth of chin but a rather untidy bite. Large ears set at a slight angle, wide at the base. Lemon shaped

eyes set at a slant. Good length to the strong muscular body. Long slim legs with neat paws, long toes with thick paw pads. Slim balanced tail. Fine down overall with heavy down on the nose and back of the ears. Wrinkles on neck shoulders and legs. Keen to come out and climb up both myself and my steward for fuss.

SPHYNX NEUTER, FEMALE

BOB Brynes's IMP GR CH & IMP GR PR ONATUREL GIFT WRAPPED, (SPH w 63). FN, 18.1.12.

I had the pleasure of judging this girl at the Herts & Middlesex show recently. She is a really good example of the breed. The head shows a really good modified wedge, with gently flowing contours and strong cheekbones. Balanced top of head with a flattened forehead. Large well set ears. Eyes lemon shaped and set at a slight angle, blue with a good depth of colour. Prominent whisker pads and a clear whisker break, gently rounded, broad muzzle. Chin a little shallow for the depth of the head, with a level bite. Profile has a slight nose break. Strong muscular medium length body. Long, slim tapering tail. Medium length legs with oval paws long toes and deep paw pads. The body is covered with fine soft down with heavier down on the nose and back of the ears. Handled well out of the pen.